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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/614,155	07/07/2003	Kent Barker	14255	9005

7590

10/05/2005

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EXAMINER

TO, TOAN C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3616

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

K

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/614,155

Applicant(s)

BARKER ET AL.

Examiner

Toan C. To

Art Unit

3616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 June 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-56 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5, 7, 8, 11, 15-31, 35, 38-51, 55 and 56 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6, 9, 12-14, 32-34, 36 and 52-54 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 10 and 37 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/7/03, 10/25/04.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election of Species 1, represented by figures 2-3, claims 1-20, 32-37, 39-43, 49-56 in the reply filed on December 17, 2004 and June 14, 2005 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).
2. Claims 21-31, 38, 44-48 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on December 17, 2004 and June 14, 2005.
3. Claims 5, 7, 8, 11, 15, 16-20, 35, 39-43, 49-51 and 55-56 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner as being drawn to a nonelected species. In this case:

Recitation "the rim is elastically enlargeable to snap fit the rim to the lip" in claim 5, 35 and 55 is drawn to a non-elected species.

Recitation "o-ring" in claim 7 is drawn to figure 10 of a non-elected species.

Recitation "sealing member" and "annular ridge" in claims 8, 16-20, and 39-43 are drawn to figure 14 of a non-elected species.

Recitation "washer" in claims 11, and 49-51 is drawn to figure 10 of a non-elected species.

Recitation "a locking bracket" in claim 15 is drawn to figure 5 of a non-elected species.

Recitation "hermetic seal" in claim 56 is drawn to a non-elected species.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-4, 6, 9, 12-14, 32-34, 36, and 52-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nakashima et al (U.S. 6,848,713).

As to claims 1, and 32, Nakashima et al discloses an initiation assembly for an inflator for a pyrotechnic device, the initiation assembly comprising: an initiator comprising a center pin (54a) disposed to convey an activation signal to trigger ignition of a quantity of ignition material (62); a body (36) disposed to encircle at least a portion of the initiator; and a cover (64) attached to the body to encircle at least a portion of the initiator; wherein the receptacle comprises a retainer (88) attached to the body (36), wherein the retainer (88) has a generally annular shape, wherein the connector comprises at least one projection and the retainer (88) is disposed to engage the

projection when the connector engages the initiator to restrict withdrawal of the connector from the initiator.

As to claim 52, Nakashima et al discloses a method for manufacturing an initiation assembly for a pyrotechnic device, the initiation assembly comprising a body (36), a cover (64), and an initiator comprising a quantity of ignition material that ignites in response to receipt of an activation signal, the method comprising: disposing the body (36) to encircle at least a portion of the initiator, disposing the cover (64) to encircle at least a portion of the initiator; and attaching the cover (64) to the body through method of snap fitting.

As to claims 2, 33, and 53 Nakashima et al discloses an initiation assembly, wherein the initiator further comprises a header eyelet (46) encircling at least a portion of the center pin (54a) and a bridge wire (19) that electrically couples the center pin (54a) and the header eyelet (46) together such that passage of the activation signal through the bridge wire ignites the bridge wire to ignite the ignition material (62).

As to claim 3, Nakashima et al discloses an initiation assembly, wherein the cover (64) is attached to the body (36) to electrically insulate the initiator.

As to claims 4, 34, and 54 Nakashima et al discloses an initiation assembly, wherein, the cover are formed polymeric material and the cover (64) comprising a rim (bottom portion of the cover 64 in figure 5), wherein the rim is weld to the body (36, see column 10, lines 40-45)

As to claims 6, and 36, Nakashima et al discloses an initiation assembly, wherein the body (36) is press fit into place to prevent moisture entry into the inflator and to prevent inflation gases from exiting the inflator through a region encircling the body.

As to claim 9, Nakashima et al discloses an initiation assembly, wherein the body (36) is part of a receptacle (40) defined by the initiation assembly for receiving a connector (23b) such that the connector (23b) engages the initiator to enable transmission of the activation signal from the connector to the initiator.

As to claim 12, Nakashima et al discloses an initiation assembly, wherein the receptacle is disposed within a housing (103) of the inflator, wherein the housing is shaped to retain the body (36), the housing comprising an inside diameter through which the connector is insertable, wherein the connector (23b) comprises at least one projection (as best shown in figure 5) and the housing is disposed to engage the projection when the connector engages the initiator to restrict withdrawal of the connector from the initiator.

As to claim 13, Nakashima et al discloses an initiation assembly, wherein the receptacle comprises a collar (40) shaped to retain the body (36), the collar comprising an inside diameter disposed to receive the connector (23b), the connector comprising at least one projection (see figure 5), wherein the collar (40) is disposed to engage the projection when the connector engages the initiator to restrict withdrawal of the connector from the initiator.

As to claim 14, Nakashima et al discloses an initiation assembly, wherein the receptacle comprises a (88) attached to the body, wherein the retainer is formed of a

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polymer and has a generally annular shape, wherein the connector (23b) comprises at least one projection and the retainer (88) is disposed to engage the projection when the connector engages the initiator to restrict withdrawal of the connector from the initiator.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 10, and 37 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Toan C. To whose telephone number is (571) 272-6677. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8:00-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Dickson can be reached on (571) 272-6669. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TTo
September 17, 2005

 9/19/05
PAUL N. DICKSON
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